



swatantra party

national headquarters

sassoon building, 143, mahatma-gandhi road, bombay 1.

B.J. 13

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO. 316

June 25, 1974

Dear Friend,

I am sure you must have read in the Newspapers the news about the Government of India issuing an Ordinance to enable it to take prompt and firm action against hoarders and black marketeers.

Our Party has in the past always insisted that those businessmen and industrialists who indulge in such vile practices at the expense of the nation, should be firmly dealt with by the Government of the day. We have said this a number of times -- inside the legislatures and in Parliament and also from public platforms. We should therefore welcome this move of the Government.

In this connection, both the President, Mr. Piloo Mody and I feel that our Party's State Units all over the country should direct its District and Primary Units to take the following measures :

- (a) hold public and/or group meetings in which we should call upon the people to expose black marketeers and hoarders particularly those who are hoarding essential commodities like Vanaspati, edible oil, cement etc.
- (b) every State Unit should appoint a Vigilance Committee consisting of responsible members whose job will be to direct its campaign in such a manner as to ensure that no innocent person is victimised. This Vigilance Committee can then appoint various vigilance squads and the Primary Units should report immediately any cases it may come across where it is worthwhile taking direct action. The main vigilance committee should then give its o.k. after it is fully satisfied that sufficient evidence is there to take direct action.
- (c) when I talk of direct action, it should be understood that it will be non-violent. You may go in for dharna and gheraos outside the godowns or residences or offices, wherever you come to know that things are hoarded. You must also inform the authorities concerned in this connection and, as far as possible, work in cooperation with authorities.

Please treat this matter as urgent and let us know how you propose to move in the matter. Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(Madhu Mehta)

Acting General Secretary